

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A  $\text{LiTaO}_3$  substrate may be encircled by  $\text{LiTaO}_3$ , as described above, to suppress decomposition of Li. By heating the  $\text{LiTaO}_3$  substrate, thus encircled by the Li-containing material, it is possible to suppress the decomposition of the  $\text{LiTaO}_3$  substrate. As for a  $\text{SrTiO}_3$  substrate, it may be encircled by sintered pieces of  $\text{SrTiO}_3$ , as described above, to suppress decomposition of Sr. In such case, decomposition of the  $\text{SrTiO}_3$  substrate may be suppressed by encircling the substrate with the Sr containing material, followed by heating. As for the  $\text{LiGaO}_2$  substrate, it may be encircled with sintered  $\text{LiGaO}_2$  to suppress the decomposition of Li. In such case, decomposition of the  $\text{LiGaO}_2$  substrate may be suppressed by encircling the substrate with the Li containing material followed by heating. As for the  $\text{MgO}$  substrate, it may be encircled with sintered  $\text{MgO}$  to suppress the decomposition of Mg. In such case, decomposition of the  $\text{MgO}$  substrate may be suppressed by encircling the substrate with the Mg containing material followed by heating. As for the  $\text{LiAlO}_2$  substrate, it may be encircled with sintered  $\text{LiAlO}_2$  to suppress the decomposition of Li. In such case, decomposition of the  $\text{LiAlO}_2$  substrate may be suppressed by encircling the substrate with the Li containing material followed by heating. As for the  $\text{LaSrAlTaO}_3$  substrate, it may be encircled with the sintered  $\text{LaSrAlTaO}_3$  to suppress the decomposition of La. In such case, decomposition of the  $\text{LaSrAlTaO}_3$  substrate may be suppressed by encircling the substrate with the La containing material followed by heating.